



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

980 Ninth Street, Suite 400

Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724

April 30, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

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Mr. Jeff Morales, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Office, Room 3500
For Kris Balaji, Federal Programming

Dear Mr. Morales:

SUBJECT: AMBAG FTIP/FSTIP Amendment No. 4

We have completed our review of Amendment No. 4 to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated April 22, 2003. The AMBAG Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2003-06 on April 11, 2003, approving these FTIP modifications and reaffirming the conformity of the transportation improvement program with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality. As detailed in the enclosures to your letter, this amendment proposes to add separate project listings in the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) for thirteen rural bridge/low-water crossing projects that were previously included in the metropolitan and statewide transportation improvement programs as part of a grouped project listing for bridge reconstruction projects.

By our letter dated April 29, 2003, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) made a joint air quality conformity determination for the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments' amended 2002 Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the AMBAG 2002/03-2004/05 FTIP as modified through Amendment No. 4. The joint FHWA/FTA air quality conformity determination for the amended FTIP is required by Section 93.104 of the Environmental Protection Agency's August 15, 1997, *Transportation Conformity Rule Amendments: Flexibility and Streamlining: Final Rule*, 40 CFR Part 51 and 93 (*Transportation Conformity Rule*) and the FHWA/FTA Metropolitan Planning Rule, 23 CFR Part 450. Based on our review, we have determined that AMBAG's 2002/03-2004/05 FTIP, including modifications adopted through Amendment No. 4, conforms to the applicable SIP in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 and in accordance with the January 2, 2002, *Revised Guidance for Implementing the March 1999 Circuit Court Decision Affecting Transportation Conformity*, and the Environmental Protection Agency's May 14, 1999, *guidance Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999, Conformity Court Decision*.

We accept these modifications to the 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) for the AMBAG region in accordance with the Federal statewide and metropolitan transportation planning regulations codified in 23 CFR Part 450. We find that AMBAG's FTIP, including Amendment No. 4, was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process in accord with the metropolitan transportation planning provisions of 23 USC 134 and 49 USC Chapter 53. This letter constitutes the joint Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration approval for the inclusion of the modified project listings proposed by AMBAG Amendment No. 4 into California's 2002/03-2004/05 FSTIP. The FHWA is providing this approval in accordance with the procedures outlined in the joint FHWA/FTA Memorandum of Understanding on single mode TIP Amendments dated March 8, 1996. Our planning and conformity findings have been coordinated with the regional offices of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Federal Transit Administration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Wade Hobbs

For

Gary N. Hamby

Division Administrator

c: (E-Mail)

FTA, Lorraine Lerman

EPA, Karina O'Connor

Caltrans:

Federal Resources, Randy Steen

Local Programs, Terry Abbott

Federal Programming, Abhijit Bagde

c:

AMBAG FTIP Binder w/ State's letter

AMBAG, Todd Muck